

60,000 attend Najib's open house in Pekan
The Malaysian Insider
August 2, 2015

About 60,000 people attended the Aidilfitri open house held by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Dataran Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar today.

Visitors began to arrive at the venue as early as 8am until 2pm to demonstrate their strong support for the leadership of the prime minister, who is also the Pekan Umno division head.

Also present at the open house was the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Tengku Abdullah was also feted to mark his 56th birthday anniversary on July 30, and consented to cut the birthday cake.

Also present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

More than 100 stalls for foods and drinks were provided for guests, which offered various Pekan traditional dishes such as 'laksa Pekan', 'opor daging', leman, ketupat, rendang, 'puding raja' and 'kuih suji'.

The guests were also entertained to songs rendered by local artistes such as Ayai Ilusi, Datuk Mohd Syed Sobri, Jay Jay and Nash.

Meanwhile, Shamsiah Noor Abd Malik, 53, from Taman Tas, Kuantan said her presence at the open house was to express support for the prime minister besides joining other Malaysians to partake in the celebration.

Another guest, Robert Augustine, 54, and his wife Louis Mary, 53, said they rushed to the open house as soon as the church service concluded in Kuantan this morning.

Augustine, who is a plumber, said he wanted to attend the open house to show his support for Najib, whom he described as 'undergoing political challenges'.

"This is the first open house I am attending this year. I hope to be able to meet the prime minister and express my support for him," he said.

Meanwhile, Pekan-born Shamsul Nizam Sharudin, 44, said his presence together with his wife and four children was more to show their support than a raya visit.

"The open house is held every year, but this year it is closer to our heart as Pekan residents. Because now is the time for us to demonstrate our solidarity with him after the cabinet reshuffle recently," he added. – Bernama, August 2, 2015.

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